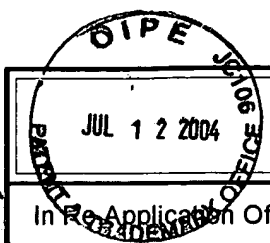


IFW \$



TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(General - Patent Pending)

Docket No.
DDAP:101bUS

In Re Application Of: **Duncan et al.**

Application No.	Filing Date	Examiner	Customer No.	Group Art Unit	Confirmation No.
10/642,840	08/18/2003	Eric K. Nicholson	24041	3679	4074

Title: **TUBULAR MEMBER COUPLING DEVICE**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith is:

- (1) Amendment Transmittal Letter (Small Entity)
- (1) Amendment and Request for Reconsideration with Attachment I
- (1) Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate A Double Patenting Rejection
- (1) Check in the Amount of \$55.00 Terminal Disclaimer Fee
- (1) Acknowledgement Postcard

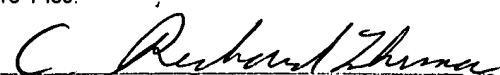
in the above identified application.

- ☐ No additional fee is required.
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$55.00 is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 50-0822 as described below.
- ☐ Charge the amount of
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional fee required.


Signature


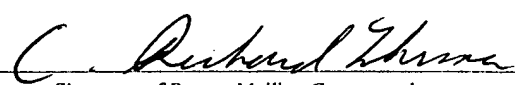
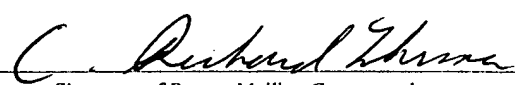
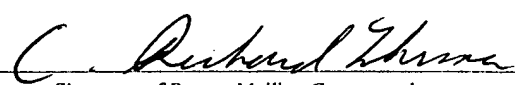
Dated: July 9, 2004

C. Richard Lohrman, Esq.
Registration No. 46,878
Simpson & Simpson, PLLC
5555 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221-5406
Telephone No. 716-626-1564

I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on July 9, 2004 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
 Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence
C. Richard Lohrman Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

CRL/KRB

cc:

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Small Entity)				Docket No. DDAP:101bUS							
Applicant(s): Duane J. Duncan and David W. Mielke, Jr.											
Application No. 10/642,840	Filing Date 08/18/2003	Examiner Eric K. Nicholson	Customer No. 24041	Group Art Unit 3679	Confirmation No. 4074						
Invention: TUBULAR MEMBER COUPLING DEVICE											
<u>COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:</u>											
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.											
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27											
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.											
CLAIMS AS AMENDED											
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE						
TOTAL CLAIMS	29 -	40 =	0 x	\$9.00	\$0.00						
INDEP. CLAIMS	2 -	3 =	0 x	\$43.00	\$0.00						
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00						
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$0.00						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0822 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.											
 C. Richard Lohrman, Esq. Registration No. 46,878 Simpson & Simpson, PLLC 5555 Main Street Williamsville, NY 14221-5406 Telephone No. 716-626-1564			Dated: July 9, 2004								
CRL/KRB CC:			<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2"> I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on July 9, 2004 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">  Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"> C. Richard Lohrman Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence </td> </tr> </table>			I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on July 9, 2004 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.		 Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence		C. Richard Lohrman Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence	
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 Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence											
C. Richard Lohrman Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence											



Attorney Docket No. DDAP:101bUS
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/642,840
Date: July 9, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Duane J. Duncan, et al.

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/642,840

For: TUBULAR MEMBER COUPLING DEVICE

Filed: August 18, 2003

Examiner: Eric K. Nicholson

Group Art Unit: 3679

Confirmation No.: 4074

Customer No.: 24041

Certificate of Mailing by First Class Mail

I certify that this Amendment and Request for Reconsideration is being deposited on July 9, 2004 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. §1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

C. Richard Lohrman, Esq.,
Regis. No. 46,878

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Honorable Sir:

This is a reply to the Office Action dated April 9, 2004 regarding the above-identified patent application. Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 15-17, 21, 22, 24-30, and 35-37 are rejected. Claims 3, 11-14, 18-20, 23, 31-34, and 38-40 are objected to.

A listing of the **Current Status of the Claims** starts on page 2.

The **Remarks** start on page 8.